

same type of temporary adhesive coating of the postable stickers of the present invention) as he refers to such sheets as having "been introduced by 3M Company in the form of note pads". Haugwitz further characterizes the adhesive nature of the postable sticker sheets of the present invention as he states "These note sheets are self-sticking and do not require moistening. An important feature of these sheets is that they can be easily affixed and easily removed." He also teaches away from the structure of claim 13 of the postable sticker of the present invention as he states "It is the latter feature [of being easily removed] which can lead to accidental detachment of the sheet and the loss of its message." Column 1, line 12 to line 26, emphasis added.

Consistent with his identification of the problem of "accidental detachment of the sheet and loss of its message", Haugwitz teaches only the use of permanent adhesives. He also acknowledges their permanent nature and the damage caused by the use of such adhesives as he states, "Heretofore, the use of these adhesives or glues was to permanently fix the paper so that the glued paper could not be detached without tearing apart the paper article", column 4, line 3 to line 6. Haugwitz credits the "unexpected result obtained by the embodiments of [his] invention [to be] due to the limited or sparing use of the permanently bonding adhesives or glues in a manner which allows substantially intact removal of the bonded material.", column 3, line 60 to column 4, line 3, emphasis added. In so selecting and teaching only the use of permanent adhesives, Haugwitz's structure and all of his claims require the inclusion of a "protecting means other than paper", claim 1, line 25 and claim 7, line 39.

b) In his specification, applicant also mentions that the adhesive coating on a sticker "may be chosen from a variety of adhesives, known in the art. When the adhesive is of high strength or a permanent nature, peeling the sticker off the surface on which it is applied usually results in some damage to the sticker, the surface on which it is applied or, in some cases, both. On the other hand, when the adhesive coating is of a weak, non-destructive or temporary adhesion nature, as the sticker

is peeled off, the adhesive remains on the sticker and the application surface suffers no damage.", page 2, line 20 to line 27. Applicant further defines and distinguishes the nature of the temporary adhesion coating, specified in claim 13, over Haugwitz's teachings as he clearly points out " Such temporary adhesion coating is known in the art, for example, pressure sensitive adhesion coating.", page 6, line 5 to line 6. Clearly then, because applicant limits his claim 13 structurally to the use of such temporary adhesive coating, applicant's structure does not necessitate the use of a "protecting means other than paper" as required by Haugwitz. Applicant also pointed out that claim 13 specifies the additional requirement that the use of a temporary adhesive coating results in no damage to the surface on which the sticker is applied.

c) Consistent with the above structural differences, applicant indicated his willingness to further limit claim 13 by adding the limitation that no protecting means is required on the adhesive coating applied on the first area of his postable sticker. As shown in Figures 2, 3-A and 4-A of applicant's drawings, the first area is not covered by any protective means as it is necessary for Haugwitz's structure.

d) In response to Examiner's rejection of claim 13 in paragraph 3 of the Office Action of March 6, 2000, stating "As for the instant invention claims "said application [surface] suffers no damage", it should be noted that applicant has failed to provide any evidence that Haugwitz will not meet said limitation", applicant pointed out that Haugwitz acknowledges the destructive nature of permanent adhesives as he states "Heretofore, the use of these adhesives or glues was to permanently fix the paper so that the glued paper could not be detached without tearing apart the paper article", column 4, line 3 to line 6. Applicant also demonstrated a micro dot permanent adhesive application model, prepared according to Haugwitz's teaching by a sparing application of a permanent adhesive to a colored underside of a paper sheet attached to another. As the two sheets were separated, clearly the damage to the bonded area was readily seen. Applicant also demonstrated his invention

utilizing a temporary (pressure sensitive) adhesive coating which showed that, regardless of the size of adhesive coated area (first area in claim 13) the adhesive coating remains on the first area and no damage occurs to the application surface.

e) In response, Examiner expressed his view that all adhesives are of a temporary nature in the sense that in the long run they all dry out and the bonded surfaces separate. He also cited his personal experience that old stamps, glued on envelopes, in time loose their bond and fall off their envelopes. As such the distinction and structural limitation of "said adhesive coating being of a temporary adhesion nature such that when said sticker is attached to and subsequently peeled off said application surface, said adhesive coating remains on said first area of said sticker and said application surface suffers no damage" in claim 13 is, in the Examiner's view, an insignificant difference and unacceptable for allowing claim 13 over Haugwitz.

f) In response to applicant's willingness to further limit claim 13 by adding the condition that no protecting means is required between the successive layers of a postable sticker note pad (see paragraph (c) above), Examiner expressed the position that since the case is under Final rejection, adding such a limitation is not allowable and that applicant can do so, in a subsequent filing such as in a CPA or in a continuation application. Based on further discussion, applicant then proposed to amend claim 13 to recite that "the first area is completely coated with an adhesive coating" in order to read away from the Haugwitz Patent.

ii) In response to rejection of claims 14 and 15 , applicant presented demonstration models that describe Holmberg Patents 4,447,481 and 4,590,109 and showed how the structures of these prior art patents do not teach his instant claims 14 and 15. On the basis of the above, Examiner then indicated that Holmberg patents will be withdrawn.

2) Subsequent to the interview, applicant telephoned Examiner in the afternoon of the same day and advised Examiner that he will not

proceed with his proposed amendment of reciting that "the first area is completely coated with an adhesive coating", indicating that such a limitation is, in applicant's opinion, unnecessary.

3) Applicant respectfully disagrees with Examiner's view, stated in paragraph (e) above, that all adhesives are of a temporary nature. In this respect, applicant would like to invite Examiner's attention to the definitions given, in accordance with the relevant art, to the terms permanent adhesive and removable, pressure sensitive or temporary adhesive (*). The relevant art is the art of converting sheet materials such as paper, film and foil.

According to the Glossary of Terms, published by the International Association of Diecutting and Diemaking (IADD), a PERMANENT ADHESIVE is defined as:

"An adhesive characterized by having relatively high ultimate adhesion to a wide variety of surfaces.",
whereas a REMOVABLE ADHESIVE is defined as:

"A pressure sensitive adhesive characterized by low ultimate adhesion and clean removability from a wide variety of surfaces."

Attached, in Appendix A are copies of the front cover and the relevant pages from the IADD Glossary of Terms.

The above definitions, in accordance with the relevant art are also consistent with Haugwitz's description of the nature of permanent adhesives and applicant's definition and limitation specified in Claim 13.

(4) Having responded to all grounds of rejection of claim 13, applicant respectfully requests that Examiner reconsider his rejection of claim 13 and allow same as the terms of permanent and temporary or pressure sensitive adhesives apply to and teach two distinctly different types of adhesives that render claim 13 distinct and reading away from the Haugwitz Patent..

(*) In accordance with applicant's specification, a temporary adhesive coating is defined such that "as the sticker is peeled off, the adhesive remains on the sticker and the application surface suffers no damage." and an example of such a temporary adhesive is a

pressure sensitive adhesive, please see page 2, line 24 to line 27 and page 6, line 5 to line 6, respectively.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amad Tayebi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Amad Tayebi
(978) 692-7527 or (978) 934-3415

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